

said projection lens support is positionally aligned and connected with said holder by said positioning means, and said display panel and said projection lens support are integrally fixed on said circuit board by a fixing screw.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-7 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1 and 7 being the independent claims. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been presented.

Claims 1 and 3-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,963,283 (Omae, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,147,127 (Honda, et al.). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The rejection of the claims over the cited art respectfully is traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claim 1 has been amended herein to more clearly recite various novel features of the present invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments. Support for the amendments may be found in the original application with reference to Figure 11 and page 27, line 20 through page 28, line 4.

Applicants' invention as disclosed in independent Claim 1 relates to a projection display apparatus comprising a display panel, a circuit board, a projection lens support, and a holder. The display panel comprises a rectangular substrate having four sides including opposite two sides and provided with a plurality of first electrodes disposed with prescribed spacing along each of the opposite two sides. The circuit board is provided with a drive circuit that includes a plurality of second electrodes for driving the display panel disposed

in association with the first electrodes disposed along each of the opposite two sides on the rectangular substrate. The projection lens support is provided with a projection lens for projecting an enlarged image onto a screen. The holder is fixed on the circuit board for holding the display panel and provided with a connector connected to the second electrodes for electrically connecting the first and second electrodes and the positioning means for the holder and the projection lens support. The first electrodes of the display panel and the second electrodes of the circuit board are electrically connected via the connector of a holder by pressing the display panel against the holder to bring the first electrodes into contact with the connector. The projection lens support is positionally aligned and connected with the holder by the positioning means for optical alignment of the projection lens.

Independent Claim 7 relates to a projection display apparatus comprising a display panel, a circuit board provided with a drive circuit for driving the display panel, a projection lens support provided with a projection lens for projecting an enlarged image onto a screen, and a holder for holding the display panel and provided with positioning means for the holder and the projection lens support. The projection lens support is positionally aligned and connected with the holder by the positioning means and the display panel and the projection lens support are integrally fixed on the circuit board by a fixing screw.

Applicants submit that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicants submit that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The Omae, et al. patent relates to a liquid crystal projection television that comprises a liquid crystal panel and a projection lens. However, the Omae, et al. patent fails to disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features of the present invention. In particular, the Omae, et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest the “electrode connection structure” of Claim 1, wherein the first electrodes of the display panel and the second electrodes of the circuit board are electrically connected via the connector of the holder by pressing the display panel against the holder to bring the first electrodes into contact with the connector. The Omae, et al. reference further fails to disclose or suggest the “screwed connection structure” of Claim 7, wherein the display panel and the projection lens support are integrally fixed on the circuit board by a fixing screw.

The Honda, et al. patent relates to a liquid crystal apparatus with a holding unit (40), a holding plate (41), and a display panel (30). Supply terminal (48a, 48b) connected to the outer bottom (13a, 13b) act as electrodes and receiving terminals. However, the Honda, et al. patent also fails to disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features of the present invention. In particular, the Honda, et al. patent fails to disclose or suggest the “electrode connection structure” of Claim 1, wherein the first electrodes of the display panel and the second electrodes of the circuit board are electrically connected via the connector of the holder, by pressing the display panel against the holder to bring the first electrodes into contact with the connector. The Honda, et al. reference further fails to disclose or suggest the “screwed connection structure” of Claim 7, wherein the display panel and the projection lens support are integrally fixed on the circuit board by a fixing screw.

In Honda, et al., the electrode connection structure is the connection between the supply terminal (48a, 48b) of the holding plate (41) and the receiving terminals (13a, 13b) of the fluorescent lamp (11). Thus, there is no suggestion of the electrode connection structure between electrodes of the holding plate (41) and electrodes of the display panel (30).

Moreover, the Honda, et al. patent merely teaches that the display panel (30) is detachably mounted to the rear surface of the holding plate (41) by means of a pair of supporting members 46 and 47. Accordingly, the mounting structure of Honda, et al. is patentably distinct from the mounting structure of the present application, wherein the first and second electrodes are connected via a connector of the holder (Claim 1) or the display panel and the projection lens support are integrally fixed on the circuit by a fixing screw (Claim 7).

For the above reasons, Applicants submit that independent Claims 1 and 7 are allowable over the cited art.

The dependent claims depend from one or another of the independent, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of Claim 1, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicants request that the present Amendment After Final Rejection be entered under 35 C.F.R. § 1.116. Applicants submit that the present amendments reduce the number of issues for consideration and place the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants believe the present amendments were necessitated by the Examiner's comments in the Official Action and were not previously presented because Applicants believed the prior claims were allowable.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submit that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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DC-MAIN 100637 v1



Application No.: 09/472,989
Attorney Docket No.: 00684.002946

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A projection display apparatus, comprising:

a display panel comprising a rectangular substrate having four sides including opposite two sides and provided with a plurality of first electrodes disposed with prescribed spacings along each of said opposite two sides;

a circuit board provided with a drive circuit including a plurality of second electrodes for driving said display panel disposed in association with the first electrodes disposed along said each of opposite two sides on the rectangular substrate;

[a display panel provided with first electrodes;

a circuit board provided with a drive circuit including second electrodes for driving said display panel;]

a projection lens support provided with a projection lens for projecting an enlarged image onto a screen; and

a holder fixed on said circuit board for holding said display panel and provided with a connector connected to said second electrodes for electrically connecting said first and second electrodes and with positioning means for said holder and said projection lens support, wherein

said first electrodes of said display panel and said second electrodes of said circuit board are electrically connected via said connector of said holder, by pressing said display panel against said holder to bring said first electrodes into contact with said connector, and

said projection lens support is positionally aligned and connected with said holder by said positioning means for optical alignment of said projection lens.